

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
March 12, 2003

ITEM: 6 a & b

SUBJECT: a) Rescission of NPDES Permit No. CA0108821, Order No. R9-2002-0104, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Rancho California Water District, Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Facility Discharge to the Santa Margarita River, Riverside County* (tentative Order No. R9-2003-055) and

b) Rescission of Cease and Desist Order No. R9-2002-0212, which established interim effluent limitations and a time schedule to comply with NPDES Order No. R9-2002-0104 for the Rancho California Water District, Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Facility Discharge to the Santa Margarita River, Riverside County. (tentative Order No. R9-2003-055) (*Chiara Clemente*)

PURPOSE: To consider adoption of tentative Order No. R9-2003-055, which would rescind NPDES Order No. R9-2002-0104 and Cease and Desist Order No. R9-2002-0212, at the request of the discharger (RCWD).

PUBLIC NOTICE: A newspaper notice regarding tentative Order No. R9-2003-055 was published in the North County Times (Inland) and Riverside Press Enterprise on February 11, 2003. A copy of tentative Order No. R9-2003-055 was e-mailed and sent to the discharger (via certified mail) and all interested parties on February 11, 2003, and made available at the Regional Board office for review thereafter (Attachment 2).

DISCUSSION: On October 16, 2002, RCWD submitted a letter notifying this Regional Board of their intent to terminate the discharge of 2.0 million gallons per day of treated wastewater to Murrieta Creek, starting October 18, 2002 (Attachment 3).

On November 7, 2002, Regional Board staff inspected the discharge location and verified that the RCWD discharge to Murrieta Creek had been terminated.

On November 26, 2002, RCWD submitted a second letter (Attachment 4), formally requesting that Order Nos. R9-2002-0104 and R9-2002-0212 be rescinded. In this letter, the District clarified that a flow diversion structure that prohibits the discharge of recycled water to Murrieta Creek had been put in place. The District also provided verification that the facility's wet-weather treatment, storage, and disposal capacity are sufficient to handle the entire plant effluent flow, as currently permitted under Order No. 94-92, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Rancho California Water District Wastewater Reclamation Facilities, Riverside County*.

If adopted, tentative Order No. R9-2003-055 would rescind NPDES Order No. R9-2002-0104 and Cease and Desist Order No. R9-2002-0212, thereby rescinding requirements for the discharge of recycled water from the RCWD's Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Facility to Murrieta Creek.

On November 10, 2002, the United States Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (Base) filed a petition to appeal the adoption of NPDES Order No. R9-2002-0104 and Cease and Desist Order No. R9-2002-0212 as written, with the State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel. The Base's petition claims that the Regional Board's decision to reduce the nitrogen and phosphorous effluent concentrations to the numerical water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan was premature and based on insufficient information. The Base is requesting that the Cease and Desist Order allow for a continuation of the treated wastewater discharge at nutrient concentrations of 5 mg/L and 1 mg/L (total nitrogen and total phosphorous, respectively) for 5 more years.

As of February 25, 2003, no written comments on the subject tentative order have been received.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

SUPPORTING DOCS:

- 1) Map of facilities and former discharge location
- 2) Tentative Order No. R9-2003-055, with transmittal letter
- 3) Letter dated October 16, 2002 submitted by the RCWD
- 4) Letter dated November 26, 2002 submitted by the RCWD
- 5) Letter dated February 4, 2003 submitted by the RCWD

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES: None.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of tentative Order No. R9-2003-055 is recommended.